



Rockville Reports

JANUARY 2017 • VOL. 63 #1



• FIND MORE CITY NEWS AT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV •

Rockville Names Robert DiSpirito as its Next City Manager New Hire Brings 20 Years of Experience as a City Manager

Robert DiSpirito, a Florida resident with three decades of service in local government leadership, will be Rockville's next city manager, the Mayor and Council announced Nov. 29.

DiSpirito, who is the interim senior manager of the Sarasota County (Florida) Planning and Development Department, most recently served as the city manager of Dunedin, Florida for nine years. He previously served as city manager of Oberlin, Ohio for 11 years.

As Dunedin's city manager, DiSpirito was responsible for the city's daily operations, overseeing 400 employees and an \$80 million budget. DiSpirito's accomplishments included creating the city's Housing & Economic Development Department and guiding Dunedin's award-winning downtown and redevelopment citywide.

"My wife, Evangelina, our children and I truly look forward to making Rockville our new home," DiSpirito said. "This is an amazing and diverse community of strong neighborhoods, beautiful parks, high-performing schools, a lively

town center and engaged citizens. As city manager, I look forward to reaching out and hearing what matters to our employees, residents, civic groups, schools, businesses and other partners."

DiSpirito was officially appointed city manager by the Mayor and Council at their Dec. 12 meeting. While he was in town, he sat down for an interview with Rockville 11.

"One of the things that attracted me to this community was the fact that this town has a national reputation for the quality of life and being a well-run city," he said in the interview. "And that doesn't mean necessarily from the top. It takes everybody to run the city organization. Everybody at every level."

Find the full interview on cable channel 11 throughout the month and at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube by searching "DiSpirito."

DiSpirito also served as assistant city manager/human resources director for Delaware, Ohio, and as assistant city manager/director of planning and development for Meadville,



Rob DiSpirito

Pennsylvania. He began his career working for the Council and Manager of Dallas, Texas. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor's degree in public administration and journalism from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.

"The Council and I are excited to announce the hiring of Rob DiSpirito as city manager," Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton said. "We are confident that Mr. DiSpirito has the skills and experience to address the opportunities and challenges facing our city, to lead our staff and to serve our community during this important time in Rockville's history. We look forward to collaborating with Mr. DiSpirito to further Rockville's reputation as one of America's leading small cities."

DiSpirito was selected from three finalists after a na-

tional search conducted by The Novak Consulting Group. Craig L. Simoneau has served as Rockville's acting city manager since February. He succeeded Barbara B. Matthews.

YOU'RE INVITED

WHAT: Reception to meet new Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito.

WHEN: 6-7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 9 (before the Mayor and Council meeting).

WHERE: Rockville City Hall lobby, 111 Maryland Ave.

The community is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

"We thank Craig Simoneau for his service to the Rockville community during this transition," Newton said. "His leadership as acting city manager and as director of public works demonstrates the kind of commitment that truly exemplifies what Rockville is all about."

DiSpirito will start on Jan. 3. The City of Rockville operates under a council-manager form of government. The city manager is responsible to the Mayor and the Council for the day-to-day management of city operations. Learn more about the Rockville city manager's role at www.rockvillemd.gov/citymanager.

Rockville Facilities to Close for New Year's and MLK Day

City Hall and all city facilities will be closed in observance of New Year's Day on Monday, Jan. 2. City Hall and some facilities will also be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 16.

Recycling and refuse will be collected one day later throughout those weeks. Find more information at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

City facilities will operate on the following schedule:

- City Hall will be closed Mondays, Jan. 2 and 16.
- Croydon Creek Nature Center is closed Sunday, Jan. 1 and is closed Mondays.
- The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office is closed Sunday, Jan. 1 and Mondays, Jan. 2 and 16. Tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.
- Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers are closed Sunday, Jan. 1. The centers are open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 2 and regular hours on Monday, Jan. 16.
- The Rockville Senior

continued on pg. 8...

Experience Two Celebration Worthy Events In January



Martin Luther King Jr. Day Ceremony to Celebrate a 'Modern Day Dream' Celebration Will Be Televised on Rockville 11

Take part in a Rockville tradition featuring diverse, interactive and multicultural performances, as the city honors Martin Luther King Jr. and recognizes community members who are carrying on his legacy on Monday, Jan. 16.

The 45th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held at 10 a.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. The celebration is free and open to all ages. A reception will follow.

The celebration will include a keynote speech by Gregory E. Bell, supervisor of diversity initiatives for Montgomery County

Public Schools, whose speech will incorporate this year's theme of "Modern Day Dream" and reflect on how King's 1963 "I Have a Dream Speech" still resonates.

Performers will include Dawn Crafton Dance Connection, Dance Exchange, Denise Henderson and The Wanted Band, vocalists Kim Gordon and Rogiér's Fibby, and Soul in Motion and Kathy Smith Contemporary Dance Ensemble.

The City of Rockville's Human Rights Commission will present two awards. The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award honors a Rockville high school

continued on pg. 4...



Celebrate Lunar New Year on Jan. 28 Bigger Than Ever, Rockville's Celebration Relocates to Wootton High School

Rockville will celebrate its Asian cultures with performances, exhibits and food, at the city's Lunar New Year celebration, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28.

This year the celebration moves to Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, to accommodate the large number of community members who attend each year. It will again offer a chance to experience Rockville's diversity through multigenerational performances, exhibits featuring character writing, games, demonstrations and a sample of Asian cuisine.

Performers will include

Central Evergreen Dance Group, Chinese Culture and Community Service Center Dragon Dance Team, Diana Dance Arts, Graceful Postures and Dance, House of Angklung, Lihui's Youth Choir and Potomac Youth Choir, Indonesian Kids Performing Arts, Migrant Heritage Commission Fil-Am Dance Ensemble, US Chinese Wushu Institution, Washington Asian Philharmonic Orchestra and West Asian Belly Dance Club.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Performances are from 10 a.m. to noon. Exhibits are ongoing

continued on pg. 4...

In This Issue...

2 A closer look at Rockville's flag and seal.

3 Meet some 'Good Neighbors.'

4 Rockville Economic Development, Inc. turns 20.

5 Off-the-cuff conversations with cops.

8 Volunteering opportunities abound.

MAYOR & COUNCIL
111 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUBURBAN, MD.
PERMIT NO. 63

ECR WSS
LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Preview to Focus on Budget Highlights and Utility Rates

December Discussion Considered Budget Priorities; Still Time to Speak Up Online

The Mayor and Council will continue discussions of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget with a budget preview scheduled for Monday, Jan. 23.

The preview, which will examine utility rates and other highlights of the city manager's proposed budget, will be part of the Mayor and Council meeting at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

At their Dec. 12 meeting, the Mayor and Council discussed priorities for the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program for FY 2018, which begins July 1, including results of the 15-question budget survey that the mayor and each councilmember completed. Find video of the discussion by searching "FY18 Budget Survey Results & Priorities" at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube.

A public hearing offered community members an early opportunity to provide budget ideas. Find video of the hearing with the Nov. 1 Mayor and Council meeting listing at www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter. There is still time for community members to share their budget ideas. Find budget information and a link to submit ideas at www.rockvillemd.gov/budget. The first of three public hearings on the proposed budget is scheduled for Monday, March 6.

OFFER IDEAS:

- At www.rockvillemd.gov/budget.
- At public hearings at the March 6, March 20 and April 3 Mayor and Council meetings.

WATCH IT:

The Jan. 23 budget preview, Feb. 27 proposed budget presentation and the public hearings will be:

- Carried live on channel 11 on county cable systems.
- Live streaming at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11
- Available a day after each meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Rockville's adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year totals \$126.3 million. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the FY 2018 budget in May.

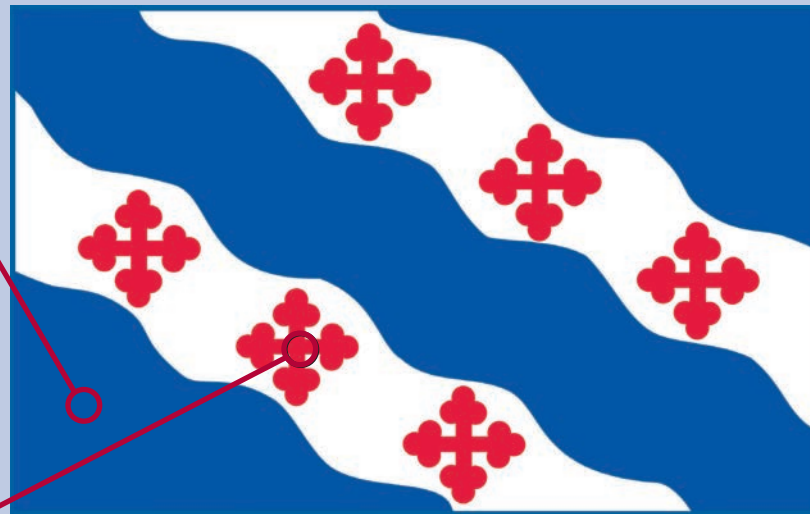
For more information, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400.

A Closer Look at City Symbols

Flag

The flag and coat of arms represent the history and traditions of the city. The flag is red, white and blue to represent Rockville's status as a four-time winner of the All-American City Award. The color blue and the wavy lines are symbolic of water and thus Rock Creek and its proximity, for which Rockville is named.

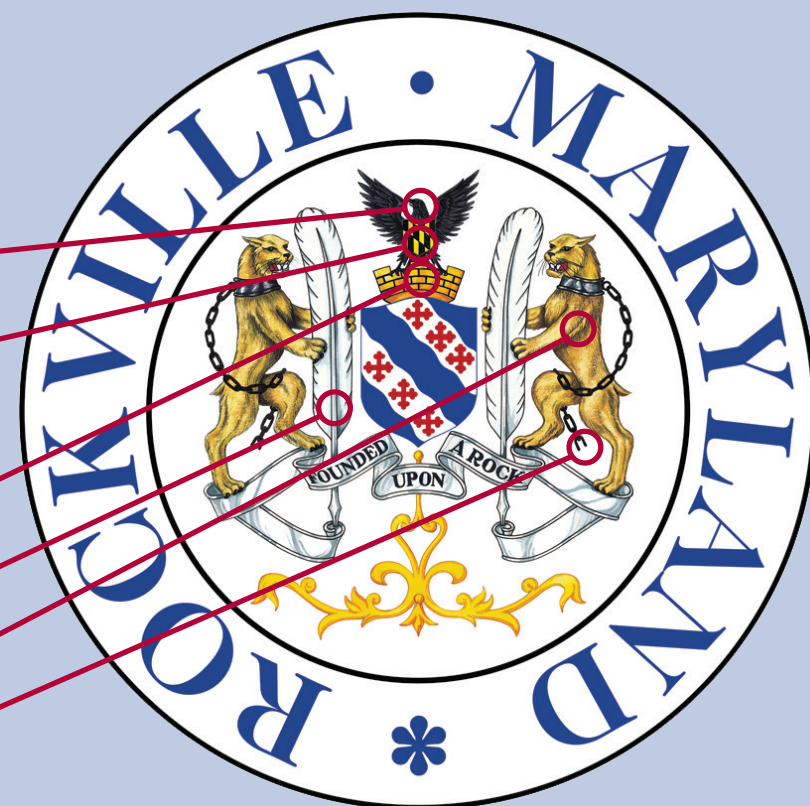
The red crosses, taken from the Maryland state flag, were drawn from the shield of the Crossland family. Alicia Crossland was the mother of Sir George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore and the founder of the Catholic colony of Maryland. The red cross was incorporated in the Calvert family shield after the Crosslands' land was inherited. The cross was quartered in the Calvert shield, as it is used in the Maryland flag, to indicate that the Crossland estates were inherited.



Coat of Arms

The coat of arms is incorporated into the official city seal. In addition to the shield, the coat of arms includes the following elements:

- Rock hawk, native to this general area, chosen because of its name.
- Gold and black escutcheon (supported by the rock hawk), taken from the Calvert family shield and the Maryland flag.
- Mural crown, similar to the crown given in antiquity to the first soldier to scale the walls of an enemy city and traditionally used in heraldry to represent civic bodies.
- Quills, representative of the Hungerford Resolves, signed by citizens here in 1771 in support of Boston's resistance to Great Britain.
- Bobcats, native to Maryland and symbolic of the fierceness of America.
- Broken chains on the bobcats, representing Marylanders' success in freeing themselves from George III.



'Recent Successes' Featured in FY 2016 Annual Financial Report Summaries Give Public a Look at the City's Fiscal Health

Two annual reports that city staff delivered to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 12 give the public a closer look at Rockville's financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2016, which closed June 30, the city ended "with an impressive \$335.8 million overall net position, unemployment rates significantly below the state and national average, and an increase in our general fund unassigned fund balance to over \$21 million," Acting City Manager Craig L. Simoneau wrote in the city's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), a summary document highlighting the city's finances.

In July, two rating agencies reaffirmed the city's triple-A bond rating. Triple-A is the highest possible rating and saves Rockville taxpayers money by allowing the city to borrow at the lowest possible interest rates.

City staff are using funds programmed in the FY 2016 and FY 2017 budgets to implement the Mayor and Council's priority initiatives, Simoneau wrote. "Those priority initiatives will move the city toward the Mayor and Council's long-term vision for the community. Moving forward, we will continue to work in collaboration with the Mayor and Council, city staff, and the Rockville community to build on our recent

FY16 PAFR DESCRIBES:

- The city government and services.
- The city's financial structure, including governmental funds, such as the general fund and the capital projects fund, and enterprise funds.
- The overall financial health of the city.
- The city's capital investments and debt.
- Property taxes and utility rates, including how to read tax and utility bills.

successes and to address the areas that make Rockville a great place to live, work, and play."

The city created the first PAFR in 2007 as a supplemental document to explain, in

layman's terms, the information contained in Rockville's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR is prepared by the Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by certified public accountants.

The PAFR and CAFR are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/financialreports. To view the presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter and select the television icon next to the Dec. 12 meeting listing. To learn more, or to request a hard copy of either report, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✦



Support Rockville Police As They Take the Plunge for Special Olympics at the

21st Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge

Friday, Jan. 27

Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis

RCPD officers participate in a police plunge in the chilly Chesapeake to support Special Olympics Maryland during the weekend-long 2017 plunge, Jan. 26-28.

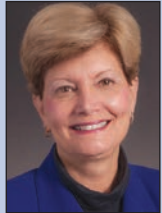
Learn more and contribute to the RCPD plunge team at bit.ly/RCPDPlunge.



POPULAR ROCKVILLE II YOUTUBE VIDEOS FOR DECEMBER: City of Rockville Employees #MannequinChallenge; Rockville Prepares For Winter Weather; New Holiday Tree in Rockville Town Square; Robert DiSpirito Appointed As City Manager of Rockville, Maryland; Rock II Now – December 2016. Find these and more at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville. Follow Channel 11 on Twitter, @rockville11.



Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton
240-314-8291
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg
240-314-8293
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Virginia D. Onley
240-314-8294
vonley@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr
240-314-8295
jpalakovichcarr@rockvillemd.gov



Councilmember Mark Pierzchala
240-314-8292
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

Upcoming Meetings: Mondays, Jan. 9 and 23 at 7 p.m.

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Virginia D. Onley on Monday, Jan. 9.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Find the drop-in schedule at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayorand

(continued in right column...)

Mayor and Council Pass Resolution to Support Fracking Ban

Rockville Joins Statewide Coalition of Concerned Environmentalists

Uncertainty over hydraulic fracturing's impact on the environment and health, safety and the environment led to a 4-0 vote of the Mayor and Council in favor of a resolution that supports a call to permanently ban the mining process.

Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," mines natural gas by pumping millions of gallons of water and chemicals at high pressure into wells, creating fissures that allows gas to be extracted. The Mayor and Council is concerned that the harmful toxic chemicals used during fracking in Western Maryland could end up in Rockville drinking water. The Potomac River, from which the city supplies drinking water to about two-thirds of its residents, has its headwaters located in the Appalachian gas basin.

The state temporarily passed a moratorium on fracking for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale in Western Maryland that ends Oct.

1. With the resolution, the Mayor and Council added their voices to a statewide coalition of environmental advocates calling for the Maryland General Assembly and Gov. Larry Hogan to enact a permanent fracking ban.

"Everything flows downhill, whether it is water or air," Environment Commission Chair John Becker told the Mayor and Council at the Nov. 21 meeting where the resolution was passed. "Those things that are affecting that area as far as Western Maryland could ultimately end up affecting us."

At the Mayor and Council's request, the Environment Commission reviewed the potential environmental effects of fracking in Western Maryland and unanimously recommended supporting a permanent ban.

Councilmember Virginia D. Onley was absent from the meeting.

Read the resolution at bit.ly/frackingresolution. ❖

Last Chance to Comment on Bikeway Master Plan Draft

A public hearing on the city's draft Bikeway Master Plan gave community members an opportunity to testify about a document that could shape how people get around Rockville for years to come.

The hearing, held as part of the Dec. 12 Mayor and Council meeting, is available for viewing by visiting the city's YouTube channel at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube and searching "Bikeway Master Plan Public Hearing."

Comments about the draft plan are being accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 9. There are several ways to submit comments:

- Using the form at www.rockvillemd.gov/bikewaymasterplan.
- By email to okotov@rockvillemd.gov.
- By mail to City of Rockville, c/o Oleg Kotov, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Include a name, address and affiliation (if applicable).

Read the draft plan at www.rockvillemd.gov/bikewaymasterplan. Find video of the plan presentation by visiting the city's YouTube channel and searching "2016 Bikeway Master Plan Presentation." ❖

Snow Blowing to Grass Mowing: Mayor and Council Honor 'Good Neighbors'

Awards Recognize Good Deeds and Community Service

The city honored community members for exceptional contributions to preserve and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods through good deeds or acts of service as the Mayor and Council presented Rockville's annual Good Neighbor Awards on Dec. 5.

This year's honorees were:

Helene Anderson

Ida Wallenmeyer nominated neighbor Anderson, who helped Wallenmeyer keep her yard tidy. "When she cut her grass, she cut my grass also," Wallenmeyer said. "She made it look so nice and she always did it with a big smile."

Dafeng Cai, Pat Casey, Peter Cole, Rick Holcomb and Kevin Meyers



Pat Casey



Peter Cole



Kevin Meyers

Wallenmeyer also nominated several neighbors on Anderson Avenue for their efforts during January's blizzard. "Fantastic" and "amazing" were words she used to describe their efforts to dig out her car, driveway and sidewalk – repeatedly – during the storm. She described neighbors working together to clear each other's driveways and side-

walks, giving her "A warm feeling for good neighbors."

Rebecca DeFrees

"Becky looks out for neighbors young and old," said Janet Wilson. "From taking neighbors to their respective doctors' appointments, caring for a neighbor's cat, to volunteering her time to community events, Becky's desire to help others when they need help comes deep from the heart." That extends to morning walks with a Zip-Loc bag to pick up trash along the way, clipping newspaper articles or coupons related to neighbors' interests, ensuring they know about upcoming events and even driving them there. "If only more people were as caring as Becky DeFrees, the world would be a kinder place," Wilson said.

Isabel Marbury-Mauro

A longtime volunteer, Marbury-Mauro has served as president of the Glenora Hills Citizens Association, maintained the garden plot for the neighborhood sign and coordinated the neighborhood's holiday progressive dinner and fall picnic. She has also created, distributed and updated a neighborhood direc-

continued on pg. 7...

(continued from left column...)

- council@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer to be on a board or commission** at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions. (Learn more below.) Find other ways to give your time and talents to your community at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted. Please check www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions for the latest on cancellations, rescheduling and contact information.

- **Jan. 3 Asian Pacific American Task Force** 7:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 4 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee** 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 Development Review Committee** 9 a.m.
- **Jan. 5 Environment Comm.** 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 7 Board of Appeals** 9 a.m.*
- **Jan. 10 Human Services Advisory Commission** 6:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 11, 25 Planning Comm.** 7 p.m.*
- **Jan. 11 Cultural Arts Comm.** 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 17 Rockville Seniors Inc.** 1 p.m. Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.
- **Jan. 18 Rockville Sister City Corporation Board** 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 19 Senior Citizens Commission** 1 p.m. Rockville Senior Center.
- **Jan. 24 Traffic and Transportation Commission** 7:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 25 Sign Review Board** 9 a.m.
- **Jan. 25 Human Rights Commission** 7:30 p.m.

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to the Mayor and Council at 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280 or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Compensation Commission (2)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Environment Commission (2)
- Ethics Commission (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (2)
- Historic District Comm. (1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (3)
- Human Services Advisory Comm. (1 caregiver)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (1 rep.; 1 alt.)
- Planning Commission (3)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (2)
- Sign Review Board (1 alt.)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting. Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/notifyme to receive an email or text message when a new agenda is posted.



Garden Plots Available to Rent

Check your thumb. Is it green? Perhaps you have a knack for gardening, but not the space, and are ready to move onto something a little more challenging than your window box.

The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, measuring 20-by-25 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park (on Hurley Avenue) where you can test your gardening chops. The cost is \$55 for Rockville residents, \$80 for non-residents. The garden plot program opens Feb. 1 and the season runs from April 1-Nov. 12.

The city provides six water spigots throughout the garden area; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

Call Rockville Civic Center's main office number, 240-314-8660, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots for more information.

WSSC Plans Water Main Replacements in Twinbrook

Construction and Tree Impacts Planned to Begin This Spring

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission water main replacements planned for Twinbrook will mean construction and street tree removal.

The construction is scheduled to begin in the spring and be completed by spring 2019, weather permitting. WSSC will rehabilitate 3.73 miles of water mains and 0.18 miles of sewer mains. The majority of the mains were installed in the 1950s and have reached the end of their useful life.

The plans call for reconnecting or relocating water lines to help preserve 97 mature street trees. Twenty-seven trees that are either in poor condition or located directly on top of the water line are scheduled to be removed. Homes where tree removal is scheduled will receive notices from WSSC. Excavation may require additional tree removal. WSSC will replace all trees that are removed, as space allows.

Construction could lead to traffic impacts.

For more information, visit <https://gis.wsscwater.com/inyourneighborhood/> and find your neighborhood on the map. Find project information by selecting the pipe icon. Learn more about WSSC's water main replacement process at www.wsscwater.com/wmr.

Questions about WSSC's Twinbrook Water Main Project No. BR6065A16 should be directed to WSSC project manager Tesfai Giorgis at 301-206-4267 or tesfai.giorgis@wsscwater.com.

REDI to Celebrate Two Decades of Service to Rockville Business

Two decades on from its founding as a public-private partnership by the Rockville Mayor and Council, Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) will hold a yearlong celebration in 2017 for its 20th anniversary.

REDI was founded in June 1997, and its 20th anniversary year will celebrate the organizations accomplishments during that time with events, an anniversary luncheon in June, a new Rockville Key Visits (RKV) business retention program that will include monthly visits to key employers in the city, and the introduction of the Rockville Legacy Club, which will highlight longstanding Rockville companies. A committee of REDI board members are focusing on ways to celebrate the milestone, Executive Director Laurie Boyer said.

One REDI success story is the six-month-old Rockville Incentive program, Boyer said.

The Business Expansion

Fund, which targets existing companies that are expanding by a minimum of 1,000 square feet, has had two companies approved for the incentive grant so far, for a total of just over \$19,000 in assistance. The combined square footage absorbed by the two firms is over 3,800 square feet and will support 19 full-time jobs in Rockville that pay an average annual salary of over \$103,000.

The two grantees expect to hire an additional 26 new full-time employees within the next three years.

Rockville MOVE, a second incentive program, is targeted toward new companies that have never had a presence in Montgomery County or Rockville. Two applications are under review by the city-appointed committee. Combined, the two companies would account for a total of 17,400 square feet of space and would support 55 new jobs in Rockville, paying a combined average annual salary of about \$75,000, Boyer said. ✚



TERMS OF SERVICE... Two employees were honored for 35 years of service at Rockville's Employee Awards Ceremony in early December (top, left to right) Anthony Brown, crew supervisor with the Department of Public Works (DPW), and Sgt. John Converse, with the Rockville City Police Department. Honorees with 30 years of service were: (bottom, left to right) Rob Queen and Susan Straus, DPW; Tim Peifer, Finance Department; and Nikita Jones, City Manager's Office.

Reach Your 2016 Fitness Goals with Help from Rockville's Centers

Programs/Memberships Offer Something for All

One of the Top 5 New Year's resolutions is getting healthy, and Rockville's fitness centers can help, without breaking the bank. Rockville's fitness centers feature state-of-the-art training rooms and numerous classes, many beginning early this month.

Programs featured this winter can be found in the 2016-17 Winter Guide, available at City Hall or any Rockville recreation facility, and online at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation

A range of programs for adults of all fitness levels this winter include: Body Fit and Body Sculpt; Cardio Strength and Fitness; Hard Core and More; Yoga — Fusion Stretch; Bootcamp (from beginner to advanced); 20/20/20 Fitness; Cardio Dancing; Cardio Kickbox; and Bodyweight Cardio-Strength.

Children's programs include: Teen Fit; Yoga — Teens; Taekwondo for Kids; Tumbling and Tramp; Zumba Fit; and numerous sports programs such as soccer, tennis and basketball.

Details on fitness center rates, hours and personal training services can be found on each center's web page:

- Lincoln Park Community Center (357 Frederick Ave.): www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc
- Thomas Farm Community Center (700 Falls Grove Drive): www.rockvillemd.gov/thomasfarm
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center (12920 Twinbrook Parkway): www.rockvillemd.gov/twinbrook
- Rockville Senior Center (1150 Carnation Drive; open to people age 60 and older): www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorcenter
- Rockville Swim and Fitness Center (355 Martins Lane): www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter

Teen, adult, family and senior rates are available at the community centers and swim center. Hours vary at each location but many of the fitness centers are open seven days a week and offer personal training services for a fee. The swim and fitness center offers lap swimming hours.

For more information and to register, find the winter recreation guide and Rock Enroll Registration at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation or call 240-314-8620. ✚

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

continued from pg. 1...

student for advancing King's goals and dreams. The F. Michael Taff Award honors an individual, business or organization from Rockville for improving the lives of people with disabilities.

The celebration will be broadcast on Rockville 11 (cable channel 11) at 8 p.m. on Jan. 16.

Find video of the 2016 celebration and learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk. For information about access, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108, TTY: 240-314-8137 or relay 711, by Jan. 9. ✚



Lunar New Year Celebration

continued from pg. 1...

throughout the celebration.

Organized by Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force, the celebration will mark the beginning of the year 4715, the Year of the Rooster, on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents were born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

For more information, contact task force liaison Janet Kelly, at 240-314-8316 or jkelly@rockvillemd.gov. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear for a full list of performers and video of the 2016 celebration. For information about access, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108, TTY: 240-314-8137 or relay 711, by Jan. 18. ✚

Connect with us on Social Media.



WATCH THE MAILBOX: City recycling and refuse customers will receive a postcard detailing their collection dates for 2017. New for 2017: There will be no collections on Presidents Day (Monday, Feb. 20). Beginning in 2018, there will be no collections on the day Veterans Day is observed. Collections will occur one day later than usual on those weeks. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

Rockville Seeks Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards is Feb. 23

The City of Rockville's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23 for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work, or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and

Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which reviews the materials and recommends awards to the Mayor and Council.

For applications and information about guidelines and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8870. ❖

Snow Emergency: What It Means and How to Help

'Snowzilla' Led to Eight Days of Parking Restrictions in 2016

While snowfall like the last year's "Snowzilla" storm – which dumped nearly 30 inches of snow on Rockville – are rare, community members should remember that significant, deep snow could lead the city manager to declare a snow emergency.

The snow emergency that was in effect Jan. 21-29, 2016, in response to the blizzard, was the city's third snow emergency in two winters. The other two were from Feb. 16-17 and March 4-6, 2015.

Once a snow emergency is declared, pay special attention to the city's website, email notices, Facebook and Twitter for updates. Learn how to connect through social media and email updates at www.rockvillemd.gov/connections.



The city's snow emergency ordinance states:

- The city manager may invoke snow emergency parking restrictions.
- The city may remove or impound cars improperly parked.
- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there.
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only.

- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the streets as one enters the cul-de-sac or court.
- No parking is allowed in the bulb of the cul-de-sac or court.
- A \$100 fine may be incurred for a snow emergency parking violation.

City crews treat and plow roads in the following priority order:

CITY CLOSURES

When snow leads to cancellations of city programs and/or facility closures, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/weather for telephone numbers and more information.

1. Primary roads that consist of major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools.
2. Secondary roads that consist of the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs.

To check whether an address is within the city limits, visit the Address and Residency Check Map at www.rockvillemd.gov/maps.

Learn more about how Rockville responds to winter weather at www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather.

For more information, call 240-314-8500 ❖

Rockville to Begin Speed Monitoring on Maryland Avenue

30-Day Grace Period Before Citations Will Be Issued

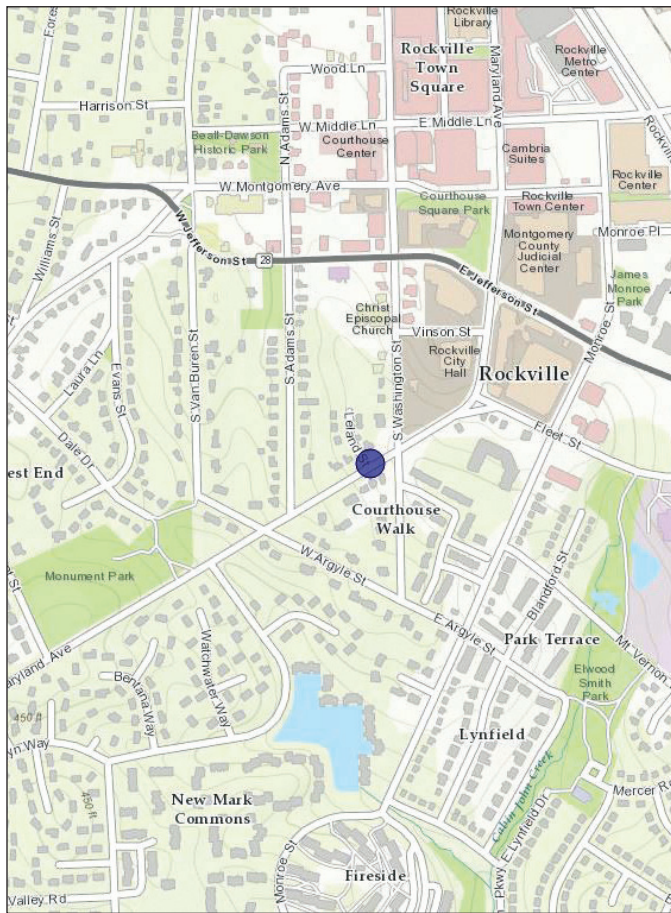
In a continuing effort to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in City of Rockville neighborhoods, the Rockville City Police Department will deploy a speed monitoring system in the unit block of Maryland Avenue, near the intersection with South Washington Street, on or about Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The system will use portable cameras to monitor eastbound and westbound traffic. Motorists will notice "Photo Enforced" signs, but citations will not be issued

for the first 30 days. After the grace period, citations will be issued, beginning Friday, Feb. 3, for vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit by 12 mph or more.

For more information, contact Socrates Yiallourous at syiallourous@rockvillemd.gov.

Learn more about the speed camera program, including fixed, mobile and portable camera locations, by visiting www.rockvillemd.gov/police and selecting "Parking and Traffic." ❖



How You Helped the Holiday Drive, by the Numbers

Rockville's Holiday Drive made Thanksgiving and the December holiday season special for neighbors in need.

The drive provided Thanksgiving meals to 497 families, including more than 1,600 individuals, and hosted a Thanksgiving meal for 105 seniors.

In December, nearly 115 volunteers contributed over 250 hours decorating the toy shop, sorting toys, assisting families and wrapping gifts, and joined city staff in delivering and distributing holiday gifts.

Deliveries and the drive's toy shop served:

- 341 families.
- 498 children ages 11 and under.
- 150 children ages 12 to 17.
- 83 senior or adult-only households.

The drive distributed:

- 996 toys.
- 341 board games and stuffed animals.
- 648 books.
- Stocking stuffers for 498 children.
- 252 adult-only or senior households were referred for Giant gift cards.
- 307 teens were referred to receive Target gift cards.

In addition, gifts tailored to the needs of 68 families, including 114 adults and 162 children, were distributed through the family sponsorship program.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/holiday drive or by calling Community Services at 240-314-8310.



Cops and Conversation That's Off The Cuff (Without Cuffs)

Have Coffee with a Cop in King Farm

The Rockville City Police Department will meet with community members for Coffee with a Cop on Monday, Jan. 9.

Officers will be on hand for informal one-on-one chats with community members – no formal speeches, no agendas and no distractions – from 8-9 a.m. at Coffee Republic, 801 Pleasant Drive #100, in King Farm Village Center. All purchases made during the hour receive a 10 percent discount.

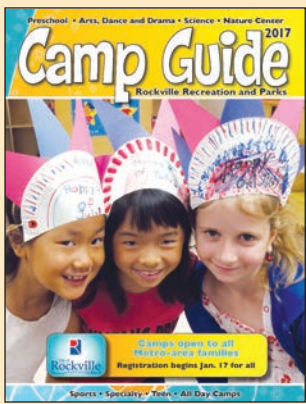
RCPD's first Coffee with a Cop was part of National Coffee with a Cop Day on Oct. 7. To learn more and view photos, search "Coffee with a Cop Day with RCPD" at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube. Learn more at coffeewithacop.com.

The program, which is the latest example of RCPD's commitment to building trust between neighbors and law enforcement through community policing, gives community members an opportunity to ask questions, discuss concerns and get to know the men and women who protect and serve our community.

Learn more about the RCPD at www.rockvillemd.gov/police.



RECYCLE THE HOLIDAYS: The city collects holiday trees as part of regular recycling collection. Remove all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged. Artificial trees cannot be recycled and should be dismantled and placed in the gray refuse cart for regular collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment. For more information, call 240-314-8568 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.



Plan Your Summer with the 2017 Camp Guide

Look for Rockville's 2017 Camp Guide, due out Jan. 4, to plan ahead for that long summer break.

This year's guide is available from City Hall, community centers and other facilities, as well as online as a PDF at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation.

The more than 60 camps available include the traditional all-day, all-summer break Summer Blast program, which runs from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. each day and is hosted at four sites throughout the city, as well as specialty camps that explore robotics, the arts, athletics, sports, science, dancing, nature, theater, parkour and many other experiences for kids age 3-16.

Single- and multi-week options are available. Camps are open to residents and nonresidents.

Registration begins Jan. 17. Camps begin June 19 and run past Labor Day to accommodate the extended summer break. Camps are run by well-qualified, trained staff, are conveniently located throughout the city, and are affordable. Register at rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov.

To learn more about camps around the city, drop by the Rockville Recreation and Parks Department's booth at the Montgomery County Camp and Summer Fun Expo, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike.

Find a summer camp guide at ...

- Croydon Creek Nature Center.
- Rockville community recreation centers (Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook).
- Rockville Swim and Fitness Center.
- Rockville City Hall.
- Rockville Memorial Library (21 Maryland Ave.) and Twinbrook Library (202 Meadow Hall Drive).
- Your child's backpack (sent home through Rockville elementary schools).
- Online at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation.

Help Name BRT and Maybe Win a Prize

Flash, Rapid or Swift? What's your preference for what Montgomery County's bus rapid transit system should be named?

Vote in GetOnBoardBRT's competition, and you could be selected to win a 9.7-inch iPad Pro, a smart keyboard and an Apple Pencil. Visit getonboardbrt.com/vote or text "MOCOBRT" to 77453 to vote.

Bus rapid transit, or BRT, is a transport system that uses buses primarily in dedicated lanes with fewer stops. Montgomery County and the state are currently studying BRT lines along U.S. 29, MD Route 355 and MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road). The most recent study covers an area from the Rockville Metro station to the Wheaton Metro station on Veirs Mill Road, and the service will have 12 stops, including the Rockville campus of Montgomery College. The state will decide on a preferred alternative on that corridor in early 2017.

Voting for the naming competition closes at 5 p.m. on Jan. 20.

Calling for Artists

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery is continuing its tradition of showcasing the finest artists in the region, highlighting the city's commitment to arts that reflect the community's diversity and vitality.

This year's call for exhibitors is open to all artists in the greater metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. New artists are welcome to apply, and the offbeat and unusual

are encouraged. The gallery can accommodate miniature works and large installations.

All submissions will be reviewed by gallery staff, alongside a panel comprised of art professionals.

Entries are due by 5 p.m., Friday, April 21. Artists will be notified by Friday, May 12.

For more information and application forms, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts. ✚



Add Magic to Your Wedding Day at Rockville's Wedding Expo

Make your special day even more magical with a visit to the Glenview Mansion's 18th Annual Wedding Expo, where you can meet and connect with more than 38 professional vendors that can help you plan the big day.

The expo will be held from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 29 at the mansion, located in Rockville Civic Center Park, at 603 Edmonston Drive.

The expo will feature how to create a unique, customized wedding plan using advice from experts in: catering, wedding cakes,

photography, musical entertainment, floral arrangements and tent options.

Tour the historic Glenview Mansion, which is also a wedding and special events venue itself, with formal gardens, an art gallery, cottage and more.

Entry to the expo is \$5 (cash only) at the door. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview, like the Glenview Mansion Weddings and Special Events Facebook page at [facebook.com/603edmonstondrive](https://www.facebook.com/603edmonstondrive), or call 240-314-8660. ✚

At the Gallery This Month: Meet the Artists, Listen to Martin's Jazzy Style

Barbara Martin's soulful vocals and guitar skills will accompany the first exhibition of the New Year at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

The "meet the artists" opening reception runs from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8.

Martin begins her performance at 2 p.m. in the Glenview's living room. "The Washington Post" calls Martin's music "as American in style as it is universal in emotional intelligence." Her style is jazzy, with the ability to transition from girl-next-door chan-

teuse to perceptive poet.

Artists on display are:

- Eric Westbrook — "Urban Nature."
- Dustine Hayes and Leela Payne — "From Paint to Pen, Spirits Within."
- David Brosch — printmaking.
- Heidi Sheppard — abstract drawings, colored pencil.

The art gallery is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday. The event is free to attend.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/glenviewgallery for more information. ✚

Enjoy a Performance at the F. Scott Theater in 2017

The New Year is a good time to treat yourself to a show at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, whether it's music or a show.

The theater will host the "Swinging Sunday: Annual Jazz Concert," 3-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 22. The Rockville Concert Band will perform an afternoon of jazz conducted by Douglas Pierce, associate music director and professor of jazz trumpet at University of District of Columbia.

No tickets are required; \$5 is the suggested donation.

Rockville Little Theatre presents the classic true story of the young Helen Keller and her steadfast teacher and friend, Annie Sullivan in William Gibson's "The Miracle Worker," directed by Laura Andruski, over six performances throughout

February: at 8 p.m. on Feb. 3, 4, 10 and 11, and at 2 p.m., Feb. 5 and 12. Tickets are \$22; \$20 for seniors (62-plus) and students.

"The Tamburitzans Live!" brings an Eastern European experience to the F. Scott's stage, 2 and 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. Tier 1 tickets are \$38 (\$33 for seniors); Tier 2, \$35 (\$30 for seniors).

The Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents "La Perichole" in English, at 8 p.m., Feb. 23-25 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 26. Tickets are \$28 (\$24 for seniors, \$20 for students).

You can reach the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office by emailing theatre@rockvillemd.gov or calling 240-314-8690. Hours are 2-7 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday, and two hours prior to every ticketed performance. ✚



Be the Performer, with Wine — and Improv

You still have a chance to be a star off-the-cuff performer in 2017 with a new round of Wine and Improv scheduled at Glenview Mansion.

The program, held in the mansion's cottage, is a chance to learn improv led by a theater professional, and enjoy fun and games over a glass of wine (or beer).

No experience necessary, but you must be 21 or older (and bring an ID). The

workshop price includes one drink ticket, with additional wine and beer on sale.

2017's Wine and Improv dates are: 7-9 p.m., Thursday evenings, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16, April 20 and May 18.

Tickets are \$35 per person, or \$60 a couple. To purchase tickets, call the box office at 240-314-8690, or go online at fscottfitzgerald.showare.com/wineandimprov. ✚



LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11
www.youtube.com/cityofrockville



NEED FINANCIAL HELP? Facing eviction? Utilities about to shut off? Need help paying for prescription medication? Emergency financial assistance is available to eligible Rockville residents facing a financial crisis, through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP). REAP assistance may be available for funeral expenses, medical expenses and payment for other basic needs. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided. For more information on REAP, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?nid=377.

FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** **Croydon Creek Nature Ctr.**, 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
GM **Glenview Mansion**, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
FSF **F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre**, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.
LP **Lincoln Park Community Ctr.**, 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
CH **Rockville City Hall**, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
SR **Rockville Senior Ctr.**, 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.
SFC **Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr.**, 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF **Thomas Farm Community Ctr.**, 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC **Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr.**, 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Find the current recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide and sign up through Rock Enroll (rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov).

2 New Year's Day (Observed) City Hall and some city facilities closed. *See article on page 1.*

3 Cafe Cinema Begins Enjoy coffee or tea and, of course, popcorn, while watching films curated from masterpieces old and new, with a discussion after the screening. List of movies provided at the first screening. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **LP**

3 Clubhouse Afterschool Session IV Begins Children spend time learning, creating and exploring during this drop-in, afterschool program. Homework time, snacks, crafts and games are scheduled daily. Field trips and special events are held throughout the year. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/lpcc. 3:30-6:30 p.m. **LP**

6 Pajama Jam Movie Night Watch a movie on the large screen in your pajamas. Refreshments sold by Twinbrook Elementary School PTA. Parents or guardians must attend with children. 7:30-9 p.m. **TC**

8 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Opening Reception and Sunday Afternoon Concert FREE 1:30-3:30 P.M. *See article on page 6.* **GM**



9 Coffee with a Cop 8-9 a.m. Stop in for an informal one-on-one chat with members of the Rockville City Police Department. *See article on page 5.* Coffee Republic, 801 Pleasant Drive #100.

9 Put Your Best Foot Forward for Seniors Begins This safe and fun indoor walking class includes balance exercises and helps improve stability, coordination, leg strength and posture. 9:30-10:15 a.m. **LP**

9 On Your Feet – Yoga Blend for Seniors Begins Learn basic yoga poses in a slow and easy pattern, adding elements of balance and core strengthening exercises, in a standing or seated position. No mat work involved. 10:30-11:15 a.m. **LP**

10 Hunting Hill Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Community Meeting City staff will

discuss recommended improvements to the tank, including safety upgrades, repairs and/or replacement of the steel roof supports, and interior and exterior work to remove existing paint. 7-8 p.m. **CH**

11 Journey - Teen Program Begins This course helps fifth graders prepare for their final year in elementary school before moving on to middle school. Take a journey with us as we make new friends and go on local field trips. Learn new and fun things about yourself before taking that next step. 4-5:30 p.m. **LP**

12 Trip Lottery and Registration In-person lottery for Senior Center members and residents for winter trips to Hollywood Casino, Charles Town; the Library of Congress; Rainbow Playhouse; and the Philadelphia Flower Show. 10:30 a.m. **SR**

12 Zumba Gold for Seniors Begins This fun, easy Latin- and internationally-inspired dance program, designed for beginners, delivers a total body workout while creating a party-like atmosphere that is great for the body, mind and soul. 11-11:45 a.m. **LP**



16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day City Hall and some city facilities closed. *See article on page 1.*

16 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE *See article on page 1.*

Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

17 Wine & Cheese Open House Explore the Rockville Senior Center with wine paired with delicious cheeses while mingling with staff and others interested in the center. Register for course #58060 by telephone, walk-in or online. 5-6:30 p.m. **SR**



19 Wine and Improv Enjoy a glass of wine or a beer and an evening of fun and games. Dive into the world of improv, led by a theater professional. No experience needed. Must be 21 and over and present an ID. Tickets at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatretix or call 240-314-8690. 7-9:30 p.m. **GM**

21 Winter Yoga Series A gentle way to greet the day, with a warmup, easy stretches and flowing poses for all levels and ages. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel. 9-10 a.m. **LP**



22 Swinging Sunday: Annual Jazz Concert Rockville Concert Band performs an afternoon of jazz conducted by Douglas Pierce, associate music director and professor of jazz trumpet at the University of the District of Columbia. 3-4 p.m. *See article on page 6.* **FSF**

25 Wild About Art Children ages 2-5 will create two to three art projects. Dress for a mess. Adult participation required. Register for course #57921. 10-10:45 a.m. **CC**



27 Twilight Tasting Join Chef Eng from Clyde's Tower Oaks Lodge to learn cooking tips and tricks, and taste delicious dishes during this interactive cooking demonstration. Age 16 and up. Register by Jan. 20 for course #57955. 6-8 p.m. **CC**

28 Lunar New Year Celebration 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE *See article on page 1.* Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway.

28 Critters Up Close Ages 2-6 yrs. This is for all the animal lovers who want a closer look at some of the amazing animals that live at the nature center. Each program features a different live creature and includes a live animal interpretation and craft. Adult participation required. Register for course #57923. 10-10:45 a.m. **CC**

29 18th Annual Wedding Expo at Glenview Mansion Noon-4 p.m. *See article on page 6.* **GM**

29 Winter Tree ID and Geocaching Learn how to identify trees in winter in this outdoor program which combines geocaching with taxonomy. GPS unit provided. Dress for the weather. All participants must register. Age 12 and up. Register for course #57989. 1:30-3 p.m. **CC**

31 Deadline for Rockville Sister City Corporation Germany Tour *See article on page 8.*

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS, VISIT WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV

Good Neighbor Awards

continued from pg. 3...



Isabel Marbury-Mauro

to the neighborhood. "Clearly our neighborhood is lucky to have someone who does so much on a volunteer basis," said Robin Bourne. "This award is just a small token of how she has made Glenora Hills a better place to live."

Amy and Brian Palmer

The Palmers stepped-up to snow blow, shovel, and treat several roads and

tory and is the point-of-contact for any critical information that needs to be distributed by email



countless walkways and driveways, from Edmonston Drive to Brice Road in their Hungerford neighborhood during January's blizzard. "Amy and Brian are among the most giving and caring of Rockville residents, and we are fortunate to claim them – not only as neighbors in our community, but as residents of our great City," said John Hall.

Judy Rudolph

As the volunteer chairperson of the New Mark Commons Homes Association's Communications Committee, Rudolph revived the neighborhood's quarterly newsletter, introduced a web-based monthly



Judy Rudolph

championed the New Mark Commons Village concept – a neighborhood assistance program focused on helping seniors age in place, and revitalized the neighbor-

hood book club following the departure of its founder. "She invests tremendous time and energy into all of these activities and our community is stronger for her support," said Jonathan Smith.

Find video of the awards presentation as part of the Dec. 5 Mayor and Council meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand.

Good Neighbor Award nominations are accepted throughout the year and awarded in the fall. To learn more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor or contact Hjarman Cordero, at 240-314-8344 or hcordero@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

Contribute to the Future of Caregiver Funding Decisions

The Mayor and Council are seeking volunteers to recommend changes to Rockville's caregiver funding process. The Caregiver Funding Task Force will examine the city's grant process, review processes used by other jurisdictions, identify best practices and recommend a comprehensive process for reviewing applications and proposing funding.

The nine-member task force, appointed by the Mayor and Council, will include representatives of specific stakeholder groups and two Rockville residents from the community at large. Meetings will be held monthly. The group is tasked with providing a report and presentation of their recommendations to the Mayor and Council within one year.

Rockville caregiver agencies provide a variety of services to those in need, including housing, health care, food, clothing and senior support services.

To apply to serve on the task force, complete the application at www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14. For more information, contact Carlos Aparicio at caparicio@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8303.

Tour Germany in Celebration of 60-Year Pinneberg-Rockville Anniversary

Germanophiles — or those who just like to travel — still have until Jan. 31 to sign up for an 11-day tour of Germany that celebrates the 60-year partnership between Rockville and its sister city, Pinneberg.

As well as Pinneberg, where the anniversary celebration and tour kicks off, travelers will visit several German towns and cities, such as Bremerhaven, Berlin, Leipzig and Munich. The trip runs from June 2-12.

A delegation of German guests from Pinneberg are scheduled to visit Rockville in early October.

For tour details, visit bit.ly/RSCCgermantour. Learn more about Rockville SisterCity Corporation or become a member at www.rockvillesistercities.org.

Water Storage Tank Rehab Meeting Set

City staff will discuss recommended improvements to the Hunting Hill water storage tank during a community meeting from 7-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

The rehabilitation will include safety upgrades, repairs and/or replacement of the steel roof supports, and interior and exterior work to remove existing paint.

A contractor will rehabilitate Rockville's two water storage tanks in 2017. Work on the Hunting Hill tank, at 13890 Glen Mill Road, adjacent to Lakewood Country Club, is expected to begin in January and to be completed by early summer 2017. Work on the second tank, which is located on Luckett Street, across from Beall Elementary School, is scheduled to begin in June 2017 and will take three to six months to complete.

A community meeting about the Luckett Street tank will be held in the spring at a date and time to be announced.

For more information, contact project manager Ilene Lish at ilish@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8516.

Holiday Closings in Rockville

continued from pg. 1...

- Center, including the fitness room, is closed Sundays and is open regular hours Mondays, Jan. 2 and 16.
 - The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is closed Sunday, Jan. 1, and open Mondays, Jan. 2 and 16. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for lap and program schedules.
- Parking fees at city-owned meters will be suspended on both holidays.
- For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov. ❖

Opportunities to Volunteer Abound in Rockville

Tutoring, phone answering, ushering, mentoring, working with animals — Rockville is always on the hunt for volunteers. The city has numerous opportunities to contribute, whether it's a New Year's resolution to pitch in and help, or teens wanting to earn service learning hours.

Here are some ways to help:

At Rockville's three community centers...

Assist with after-school programs during the school year with various activities and tutoring. Front desk volunteers answer phones and do light office work. School community service volunteers do various jobs.

At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre...

Assist as ushers during performances and as parking attendants on performances with overflow parking.

At Glenview Mansion...

Greet mansion visitors, conduct tours and perform other duties such as light office work.

As an inclusion companion...

Assist children and adults with disabilities to successfully integrate into recreation programs such as gymnastics, crafts, karate, swimming, sports or outdoor activities.

As a mentor...

Be a friend to an elementary school-aged youth in a structured setting. Mentoring takes place after school for one hour per week during the school year at the school site.

At Croydon Creek Nature Center...

Greet and assist visi-

tors, help with animal care and share your expertise to help with unique projects. Assist inside and outdoors, weekdays and weekends. All volunteers must be at least 14 years old. To be considered for a volunteer position you must complete the nature center's volunteer application at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

As a recreation class volunteer...

Help with classes before and after school and on weekends for preschool and elementary school children in activities such as arts and crafts, dance, music, sports and games.

At the Senior Center...

Assist with office support, computer classes, in the thrift or gift shop or fitness room, as part of the garden committee, with bingo, or translation or transportation to medical appointments.

At the Swim and Fitness Center...

Assist at the front desk answering phones, or enjoy a hands-on experience helping to teach swim lessons. Training is provided for those interested in teaching water aerobics. Many other opportunities are available for weekdays and weekends.

As a youth sports volunteer...

Work with elementary and middle school children in sports and team league play after school and on evenings and weekends.

Find more opportunities to volunteer and an application form at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer. ❖

Meet and Greet District 17's Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly

Mix, mingle and chat with the senator and delegates who represent District 17 in the Maryland General Assembly. The Jan. 30 event, held in Annapolis, is sponsored by the four-person District 17 delegation.

Rockville will provide two buses to transport the mayor, council, city staff and residents who would like to attend the meet and greet. Seats are available to Rockville residents on a first-come, first-served basis. The buses will leave from the main entrance of City Hall at about 4:30 p.m., and will depart Annapolis around 9 p.m. to return to City Hall by 10 p.m. All Rockville residents are welcome to attend the event and can use their own transportation.

The meet and greet

will be held from 6-8 p.m., Monday, Jan. 30, in the Miller Senate Office Building, Suite West 1 and 2, with a buffet catered by Dawson's Market.

District 17 delegation members will provide some brief remarks and the group will walk over to the State House to watch a House or Senate session.

District 17 covers Rockville and Gaithersburg. It is represented by Sen. Cheryl C. Kagan and delegates Kumar P. Barve, James W. Gilchrist and Andrew Platt. The 437th Maryland General Assembly session convenes at noon, Wednesday, Jan. 11.

To reserve a seat, call 240-314-8113 or email tporster@rockvillemd.gov by Jan. 16. ❖



RECOGNITION... In December, Lourdes Lemus, a senior permit technician with Rockville's Community Planning and Services Division, was named Permit Technician of the Year by the Maryland Building Officials Association. Lemus joined the City of Rockville in March 2007, passing the International Code Council's permit technician exam in April 2012. This year, Lemus started to review and approve solar plans for the city.





Get Into It

Mayor
BRIDGET DONNELL NEWTON

Councilmembers
BERYL L. FEINBERG
VIRGINIA D. ONLEY
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
MARK PIERZCHALA

Acting City Manager: Craig L. Simoneau
Deputy City Manager: Jennifer Kimball
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam
Graphics and Printing: Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell, Nikita Jones, Leon Porter, Betsy Robbins, Lori Russler
Rockville 11: Hagop Balekjian, Kathy Dantzler, Tony Plaia

Rockville Reports is the official publication of the City of Rockville, published at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137. Have an idea for Rockville Reports? Call 240-314-8105 or email pia@rockvillemd.gov.



BACK IN THE DAY: Citizen complaints led to an overhaul of Rockville's animal control ordinance, according to the Jan. 11, 1978, "City of Rockville Newsletter." The changes increased controls for cats, and raised and created new fees and fines. Cats and dogs were now required to be leashed and prohibited "running at large," and making excessive noise, or "damaging or soiling property other than that of the owner." The penalty? A warning from an animal control warden, then fines of \$25, \$50 and \$100 for subsequent violations.